

Harper Collins book, "Upon This Rock: The Miracles of a Black Church," written by Samuel G. Freedman. In 1996, Youngblood and the ministry of St. Paul community were featured in an article titled "Crossing Border" in the premiere of Common Quest magazine. In December of 1995, Dr. Youngblood was also listed in The New Yorker magazine as one of the "ten most influential" New Yorkers. He has been profiled on ABC's 20/20, NBC Nightly News, CBS Sunday Morning News, FOX 5's McCreary Live Report, and the Charlie Rose Show.

In September 1995, Dr. Youngblood launched what has become one of the premier projects on the Church's annual calendar, now known as the commemoration of the Maafa. Dr. Youngblood is spearheading a national effort to promote the Maafa as a spiritual movement aimed at healing this nation around the scars of slavery. Since 1998, the St. Paul Community has toured "The Maafa Suite" production to venues including Dallas, Mississippi, Seattle, Atlanta, Chicago and Connecticut.

In June of 1998, Dr. Youngblood released his own book of poetry titled, "I Honor My Father"; a collection of poems inspired by the illness and loss of his father in the same year.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Youngblood has dedicated his life to helping people through his spiritual leadership, public advocacy and civic participation. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CELEBRATING OLDER AMERICANS

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, communities around the country and in my district celebrated Older Americans Month this May. The theme for 2004 was "Aging Well, Living Well", a goal I'm sure we all hope to achieve as we enter into our golden years. Every day in our country, some 6,000 people turn age 65 and become eligible for Social Security, Medicare and other age-based entitlements. In less than 7 years, the daily tally of Americans celebrating their 65th birthday will increase by more than 50 percent to 10,000 a day.

It is in the spirit of Older Americans Month and our support for these individuals that I bring to my colleagues' attention the work of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine. For more than 75 years, The Jackson Lab has worked tirelessly for the benefit of older Americans and has been at the forefront of discovering cures for human diseases. Their research into the specific diseases of old age as well as the overall mechanisms of aging have helped pave the way to important discoveries that serve to improve quality of life for all older Americans. As we take a moment to honor Older Americans, we should recognize those individuals and institutions that do all they can to enhance the human condition as we grow older.

The good news is that many older Americans see retirement as a time to enjoy the fruits of their earlier labors. A 2002 survey by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that

more than 59 percent of individuals aged 50 and over see retirement as "a time to be active and involved, to start new activities, and to set new goals." Recent studies, such as the MacArthur Foundation's "Study of Aging in America" demonstrate that engaging in life is a key component of successful aging. Americans are pleased and proud that in our country, most people are enjoying the blessings of longer and healthier lives. Meanwhile, we know that scientists searching for answers to the diseases of aging such as cancer and Alzheimer's are likely to succeed in adding even more healthy and vital years to the average life span.

However, for many Americans, the concept of "growing old gracefully" is now, and will always be, unattainable. The combination of reduced income, increased health care needs, and decreased quality of life create more problems than opportunities for too many in our aging population. Over 5 million older Americans live at or near the poverty level. The median level of income is around \$19,000 per year. At the same time, most older Americans have at least one chronic condition (such as hypertension or diabetes). These conditions contribute to increased health care costs at precisely the time when their incomes are reduced.

Policy makers have a responsibility to better understand the challenging issues facing our country as we press the boundaries of human aging and health. What level of funding should Congress invest to further extend human longevity? What impact will longer and healthier lives have on the economy and on the costs of health care? It is part of our responsibility as legislators and representatives to stay informed at the crossroads of science and human aging. Sooner than we may expect, Congress may be called upon to render judgments in public policy on these issues. That is why I was so pleased to learn of The Jackson Laboratory's participation in a powerful new on-line forum called SAGE (for "Science of Aging") Crossroads (www.SAGECrossroads.net).

Launched in March, 2003, www.SAGECrossroads combines the high journalistic standards of SCIENCE magazine, with the immediacy and interactivity of the Internet. A particularly exciting centerpiece of the project is a monthly debate that is webcast live to viewers who participate in these timely discussions as they are happening. Through this series of innovative and thought-provoking discussions, SAGE Crossroads invites researchers, policymakers and concerned citizens to interact with respected thought leaders. For example, Dr. David Harrison of the Jackson Lab recently participated in a debate entitled "Are Biomarkers the Key to the Fountain of Youth?" This particular debate considered the issue of whether resources are better spent on seeking to cure the specific causes of various diseases, or whether to work to identify the key biomarkers of aging that might lead us to a better understanding of aging in its entirety. Other debate topics have ranged in recent months from contrasting views of life extending and life enhancing technologies to appropriate uses of information about individual genetic risks to disease. Through this forum, leaders in the aging research community address questions such as whether a person's age should count in rationing limited health care resources or whether public policy

considerations impact the scope of scientific research.

The people in my district, as well as people across the country, are very interested in what it will take to maintain health and enjoy a high quality of life as they age. As policymakers, we know that the forward march of the life sciences will raise as many questions as it settles. I urge my colleagues to draw upon the wisdom of some of our most provocative and learned thought leaders by signing on to www.SAGECrossroads.net and registering to participate in future debates.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT G. WANNAMAKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of South Carolina's leading executives, Robert G. Wannamaker, General Manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Mr. Wannamaker, who will be retiring at the end of this month, has spent his entire career insuring that rural areas in South Carolina's Sixth Congressional District have access to reliable, affordable electricity.

Throughout his 23 years with the Cooperative, Mr. Wannamaker has led his team to many profound successes, especially in times of crisis. This past January he impressively managed the effects of a natural disaster when one of the most violent ice storms in South Carolina's history tore through the state's Midlands leaving roughly 15,000 Co-op customers without power. Mr. Wannamaker directed a recovery process that had total restoration of power within a week despite extensive damage to more than 250 poles and 200 cross arms.

Mr. Wannamaker began his career with McCall-Thomas Engineering Company of Orangeburg as an Engineering Assistant. He was hired at Tri-County in January of 1972 by the late Dewey Kemmerlin, Jr. as a field designer and staking engineer. He was later promoted to the position of manager of member services, which he held until he left Tri-County Co-op to become the district manager of the Johns Island District of Berkeley Electric Co-op near Charleston. He is a graduate of Spartanburg Methodist College and the University of South Carolina and serves as a member of community development committees and organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Wannamaker on a distinguished career of insuring a better quality of life for rural citizens of South Carolina. His work has given thousands of customers the reliability and convenience of having efficient energy services through even the most challenging conditions. And he will be sorely missed.